

providing a communication mechanism for a plurality of users associated with the manufacturing project to efficiently communicate with each other;

providing a plurality of electronic concept proposal worksheet files, wherein each of the plurality of electronic concept worksheet proposal files defines a selected concept proposal;

selectively communicating the plurality of electronic concept worksheet proposal files to a plurality of users of the communication mechanism;

modifying the electronic concept worksheet proposal files;

entering the modified electronic concept worksheet proposal files into a proposal database;

using the proposal database to generate at least one complete project proposal;

performing a manufacturing concept ready procedure, effective to verify that said certain technology is capable of manufacturing said desired product under simulated conditions;

performing a manufacturing implementation procedure, effective to verify that said certain technology is functionally sound and meets certain quality and cost criteria;

developing a replication plan wherein the replication plan comprises the substeps of

identifying a plurality of replication sites,

developing a replication plan using the identified replication sites,

developing a generic non-site specific workplan, and

revising the generic non-site specific workplan to include unique requirements for each replication site;

prioritizing replication sites in accordance with a confirmed replication plan; and

performing a replication procedure in accordance with the confirmed replication plan.

(21) (Amended) A method for developing and performing a manufacturing project comprising the steps of:

providing a communication mechanism for a plurality of users associated with the manufacturing project to efficiently communicate with each other;

providing a plurality of concept proposals;

providing a plurality of electronic concept proposal worksheet files, wherein each of the plurality of electronic concept worksheet proposal files defines a selected concept proposal;

selectively communicating the plurality of electronic concept worksheet proposal files to a plurality of users of the communication mechanism;

modifying the electronic concept worksheet proposal files;

entering the modified electronic concept worksheet proposal files into a proposal database;

using the proposal database to generate at least one complete project proposal; and

implementing multiple applications of said technology in manufacturing operations by performing the substeps of

identifying a plurality of replication sites,
developing a replication plan using the identified replication sites,

developing a generic non-site specific workplan;
revising the generic non-site specific workplan to include unique requirements for each replication site,

confirming a replication plan,
prioritizing replication sites in accordance with a confirmed replication plan, and

performing a replication procedure in accordance with the confirmed replication plan.

(28) (NEW) The method of claim 1, wherein the substep of developing a replication plan using the identified replication site further comprises the steps of:

recommending the sequence of replicating within the identified replication sites;

describing unique local requirements for each identified replication site; and

establishing an issues deck to document new data that would be useful for replication planning.

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(29) (NEW) The method of claim 1, wherein the substep of developing a replication plan using the identified replication sites further comprises the steps of:

- establishing a replication team consisting of key technology developers and representatives from each of the replication sites;

- reviewing pilot application with potential replication customers;

- developing a generic non-site specific workplan;

- revising the generic non-site specific workplan to include unique requirements for each replication site;
- estimating human resources and skills required to replicate technology;

- developing directional estimates of other resources required for replication; and

- agreeing on roles and responsibilities between operations and manufacturing departments including project closure requirements

(30) (NEW) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of confirming a replication plan, wherein the step of confirming a replication plan further comprises the steps of:

- confirming a business case, conditions and economic constraints;

- calculating a proposed project's plan tryout "time adjusted rate of return" ("TARR");

comparing the TARR to the manufacturer's TARR requirements;

confirming effect of local requirements at each proposed replication site;

identifying any economic constraints;

estimating the effects of identified economic constraints upon the proposed replication plan; and

summarizing the business case in terms of investment and total expected savings by a cost labor category and a materials category.

(31) (NEW) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of prioritizing replication sites in accordance with a confirmed replication plan further comprises the step of:

developing a prioritized listing of replication sites using business conditions, cycle plans, and available vendor resources.

(32) (NEW) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of modifying the electronic concept worksheet proposal files further comprises the steps of :

finalizing project workplan information; and

refining estimate information for required resources and project benefits.

(33) (NEW) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of using the proposal database to generate at least one complete project proposal further comprises the step of: